FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 OCTOBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Responding to Iran's claim to have captured a hill in the Qasr-e Shirin sector, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses said the Iranians only "gained a foothold" on the hill, and this was recaptured by the Iraqis in a counterattack that inflicted "heavy losses" on the enemy. Meanwhile, Iraqi warplanes raided a sugar factory south of Dezful, according to another communique broadcast by the radio. IRNA said the attack hit residential areas of Haft Tappeh, between Dezful and Ahvaz, killing 14 people and wounding 65 others. The Iranian agency also stated that Iranian warplanes bombed an oil installation 12 km southwest of Kirkuk, inflicting substantial damage. In further comment on Iran's claimed attack on Kirkuk 10 October, IRNA maintained that Iraq misled newsmen about the results of the operation by showing them oil installations 20 km south of the oil complex hit by Iranian and Kurdish forces. Tehran radio cited "reliable" reports from Iraq that three helicopters and one airplane were destroyed on the ground during the 10 October attack.

In the Gulf, Iraqi planes attacked Khark Island 14 October, an Iraqi military spokesman disclosed in a statement cited by INA, adding that one Iraqi aircraft was lost during the raid. IRNA said the Iraqi jet was downed by an Iranian F-14.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the six U.S. hostages have been moved from the southern suburb of Beirut to the Al-Biqa' town of 'Anjar, near the Syrian border. The radio noted speculation that the Syrians will secure the hostages' release to counter accusations that it is a patron of terrorism.

In another development, the Voice of Lebanon stated that 7 people were injured by a car bomb explosion in Zahlah.

Israel

The Likud-Alignment dispute over appointments continued as Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir failed to reach agreement during a 14 October meeting, IDF radio reported. Peres later issued a communique calling on Shamir to immediately establish his new government in the same form as Peres' administration, according to Jerusalem radio. Peres stressed that negotiations on the disputed issues can be resumed after the formation of the new government. Senior Alignment ministers criticized Shamir for "intransigence" and warned that the crisis is worsening, the radio disclosed in a 15 October report.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated at a press conference reported by IRNA that his talks with GDR officials provided suitable grounds for future relations, adding that the two sides have agreed to expand political and technological ties.

According to IRNA, a Soviet diplomat in Iran committed suicide by hanging in his Tehran apartment.

DRA

At a Kabul press conference of Afghan and Soviet officials on the eve of the partial Soviet troop withdrawal, Foreign Minister Shah Muhammad Dost hoped that those conducting an undeclared war against the DRA would correctly understand and respond to the joint Soviet-Afghan initiative, Moscow television reported.

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AFP: Soviet Withdrawal of 6 Regiments Begins 15 Oct

BK150950 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT Oct 86

[Text] Moscow, Oct 15 (AFP) — The withdrawal of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan began Wednesday at 0700 GMT, Soviet Foreign Ministry official Viacheslaw Milushin announced at a press conference here. The pull-out, to be completed by the end of the month, involves one armoured regiment, two motorized regiments, and three anti-aircraft units.

Soviet General Mikhail Sotskov confirmed in Kabul Tuesday that 8,000 men would be withdrawn, out of a total contingent estimated by Western sources at about 120,000.

General Nikolai Chervov, head of administration for the Soviet chief of staff, told reporters here that the operation had been made possible "thanks to the progressive stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan."

'Masked' Troop Rotation Claim Denied

BK141622 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 14 Oct 86

[By Sylvie Kauffmann]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 14 (AFP) — The 8,000 troops that the Soviet Union is pulling out of Afghanistan will be returning to their base in Turkmenia, Central Asia, Soviet General Mikhail Sotskov told a press conference here Tuesday. Gen. Sotskov, introduced as a "representative of the Soviet Army General Staff in Afghanistan," said the operation, which begins Wednesday, was being carried out in "good faith." He rejected U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's claim that the withdrawal of the six regiments merely masked a troop rotation.

According to a Kabul-based Western diplomat, Moscow may indeed be cutting down on in its troops in Afghanistan, because the Soviet Army has changed its tactics since intervening in 1979. Nowadays the Army is less static and more mobile, using such means as helicopters. but the withdrawal is still a strictly limited one, as according to Western estimates there are about 120,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. "The amount of forces deemed necessary" will remain, Gen. Sotskov himself said.

Asked about Soviet troops losses in Afghanistan since the intervention, Gen. Sotskov did not reply. When he [was] asked a second time, however, he replied: "The question has already been put."

He said that the role of the six regiments — an armored regiment, two motorised units, and three anti-aircraft units — will be filled by "the Afghan Army and in part by the Interior Ministry." The Afghan forces, he said, "are now capable of conducting military operations." "Similarly," he added, "the Interior Ministry has been strengthened and is now more powerful."

He did not rule out that Afghan guerrillas might attack while the withdrawal operation was in progress, but he added that "the appropriate measures have been taken."

The Afghan deputy defence minister, General Muhammad Nabi Azemi, who was also at the press conference, said that in the past five months the Afghan Army had had as many recruits as during the whole of last year.

Another official, the Afghan foreign minister, Shah Muhammad Dost, was asked about the chances of success in the indirect negotiations at Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said that "there is a chance of resuming" the talks, which were broken off on August 8, "perhaps in the near future." But he deplored the fact that Pakistan "insists on making the total withdrawal of the Soviet contingent the central question."

Concerning the internal situation, of which the "progressive stabilisation" is said by Moscow to have made the start of a Soviet withdrawal possible, Mr Dost admitted that "the fight against the counter-revolution is difficult." There were two reasons for this, he said. Foreign aid to the guerrillas was still considerable, and "weapon stores in the mountain regions have not all been eliminated."

Referring to the idea of "national reconciliation" floated by the Afghan leader, Najibullah, Mr Dost said that "concrete measures" had been taken "for the realisation of this idea" and that "the political forces which are outside the country are invited to take part in the construction of Afghanistan."

The drafting of a new constitution is "almost finished," he said. When it has been submitted to the people and promulgated, he added, "a People's National Assembly, a Council of State, and a new Cabinet will be created, while the Revolutionary Council," chaired by former leader Babrak Karmal, "will be suppressed."

Security 'Intensified' in Kabul

BK141226 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 14 (AFP) — Security measures have been intensified in Kabul ahead of the arrival of a number of Western and Eastern bloc correspondents to view the start of the withdrawal of six Soviet Army units from Afghanistan, Western diplomats reported here Tuesday.

The six regiments were identified by the diplomats as one SAM-8 anti-air missile unit from Kabul, one mobile SAM-8 regiment, one motorized unit and one regular regiment from the southwestern base of Shindand, and one SAM-8 unit and one motorized regiment from Konduz in the north.

The security in the capital was intensified after sporadic artillery attacks on Kabul by rebels in the past week, the diplomats said.

There has also been heavy fighting in the past week north and northwest of the capital, particularly near the northern towns of Shakar Darreh and Estalef on October 5 and 6, the sources said. At least 35 soldiers died in the fighting, and three were taken prisoner by rebel forces. Several civilians died in bombing reprisals by the Afghan Air Force, the diplomats said, adding that the road from the region to Kabul has been closed to prevent a flux of refugees into the capital.

Fighting was also reported in the past few days in the Lowgar Province, south of Kabul, and east of the capital, as a number of guerrillas were heading towards winter bases in Pakistan.

Serious fighting also occurred during the week in the south-east of the country near Gardeyz. The official Afghan media Tuesday confirmed that a Moslem shrine was destroyed in the town by guerrilla artillery.

The diplomats said the Afghan and Soviet forces made a further effort to open the road between Gardeyz and the fort of Khowst, which has been blocked by rebel forces for six years.

Several helicopters were shot down by guerrillas in a battle near Jalalabad, in the east, the sources added. Rebel sources did not confirm the report.

PDPA's La'eq Attends Meeting Honoring Soviet Troops

LD130951 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 12 Oct 86

[Text] In order to mark and appreciate the heroic sacrifices of the personnel of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and in honor of the staff of a number of Soviet units which are returning to their peaceful country, the Soviet Union in line with the agreement reached between the DRA and the USSR Governments, a literary gathering was held today by the Commission of Military Literature of the Writers of the DRA.

The gathering was attended by Comrade Sulayman La'eq, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of tribal and nationalities affairs of the DRA; personnel of the limited Soviet contingents in Afghanistan; personnel of the units of the Kabul garrison; students and teachers of the Institute of Social Sciences of the PDPA Central Committee; and heads of the Army political affairs office and of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Brigadier General Zabihollah Ziarmal, head of the Army political affairs office, spoke about the unshakable friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and the selfless assistance of the friendly USSR with the people of Afghanistan and the internationalist help of the staff of the limited Soviet contingents in Afghanistan.

He spoke about the militant fraternity of the Soviet Army and the DRA Army. He also thanked the staff of the Soviet units who are returning to their homes and said their memory will remain forever in the hearts of our compatriots.

Subsequently, an officer of the Soviet limited contingents in the DRA, spoke on behalf of other personnel of the units and companies of the Soviet Union who are leaving for their peace-loving country.

A BIA correspondent reports that at the meeting Comrade Sulayman La'eq and Ajmal Khatak read their poems in praise of the Soviet internationalist soldiers and of Afghan-Soviet friendship.

NFF's Hatef Departs for Peace Council Congress

LD140815 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 13, BAKHTAR: A delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) headed by Abdurrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front (NFF) of the DRA, left here today, to participate in the World Peace Congress due to be held in the course of the current week in Copenhagen.

During the sessions of the congress matters relating to preservation of peace, prevention of the dangers of the nuclear war, human rights, disarmament, food, health, shelter, prevention of regional conflicts, and other questions relating to the world peace would be thoroughly discussed.

PDPA's Ratebzad Departs

LD130926 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 13 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 12, BAKHTAR: Anahita Ratebzad, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation (PSFO) of the DRA left Kabul for Copenhagen today to participate at the World Peace Congress.

Anahita Ratebzad who is also the vice-president of AAPSO before her departure expressed hope that the congress will take firm steps for ensuring and preserving the world peace.

Delegation Member Comments

LD130934 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0458 GMT 13 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 12, BAKHTAR: The Afghan delegation to the World Peace Congress, which will be held in Copenhagen, will voice the protest of the people of Afghanistan in connection with the undeclared war imposed on them by imperialism and reaction, and it will throw light on the peaceful stand of Afghanistan once again.

This was said to a BAKHTAR reporter by Abdul Wahid Sarabi, minister without portfolio, who will participate at the World Peace Congress of Copenhagen as a member of the Afghan delegation.

He added that the delegation, while [it] approves and supports the peace cause of the USSR, is desirous of complete disarmament and opposes the continuation of arms race in the world. With a deep sentiment of hatred towards war and war-mongers, the delegation is desirous of peace in Afghanistan and the world at large.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the DRA do not spare any effort and good will for the ensurance of nation-wide peace through national reconciliation, Abdul Wahid Sarabi said.

BAKHTAR Statement on Need for Peace

LD140842 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 13, BAKHTAR: The people of Afghanistan strive with all their might for the stopping of bloodshed, creation of peace in the region and the world at large. It is said in a statement of *Bakhtar Information Agency* on the eve of the World Peace Congress in Copenhagen which is to be held this week.

The statement says that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan confronted with the imperialistic undeclared war, has always been the target of imperialistic aggressions and interference, is in need of peace more than any other country.

The anti-Afghan undeclared war is assuming wider scope with the passing of every day. Counter-revolutionaries are acquiring most modern lethal weapons, including Stringer missiles and chemical weapons, from the U.S. and its allies for sowing murder and destruction in our country. So far, only the U.S. has rendered assistance worth over $1.5 billion to the counter-revolution for the continuation of the filthy anti-Afghan undeclared war.

A total of over forty billion afghanis economic loss was inflicted upon our people as a result of subversive activities of the counter-revolution till the end of the last Afghan year ended March 20, 1986, the statement says.

Communications Minister Departs for GDR

LD131950 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Oct 86

[Text] Comrade Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications left this morning for Berlin at the invitation of the GDR Government in order to sign a protocol of cooperation in telecommunications and posts.

Prior to his departure, Comrade Watanjar told a BAKHTAR correspondent at Kabul International Airport that the GDR is cooperating with the DRA in the automatic telephone project in Sheberghan, Pol-e Khomri, Charikar, Jalalabad, and Ghazni cities and some other projects of the Ministry of Communications. Under the protocol which will be concluded in Berlin, the GDR's cooperation will expand in telecommunications and post projects included in the first 5 year development plan.

Mir Sahib Karwal, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Gol Dad, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; and the GDR ambassador in Afghanistan were present at Kabul airport to see Comrade Watanjar off.

26-Man Rebel Group Surrenders to Armed Forces

LD150902 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] The BIA reported that following the surrender of a group, who laid down its weapons this week in the Lalandar region of Char-Asiab District, another 26-man group, in perceiving the righteousness of the April Revolution and futility of resisting the country's Armed Forces, laid down its weapons yesterday and by repenting their deeds, surrendered to the security forces.

The report adds that the ringleader of this group, Reza Khan — who had been cooperating with the criminal Islamic movement band — assured on behalf of the others that they were not going to allow the rebels, these enemies of the homeland, revolution, and people to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of the Lalandar region and to embark on murdering innocent people, sabotaging, and setting fire to mosques, schools, and bridges.

Tehran: DRA 'Revolutionaries' Down 3 Soviet MiGs

LD141515 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries launched an attack on positions of the joint forces around the city of Herat in order to break the city's security wall. This report, quoting the Pakistani press, indicates that during these operations, the ground-to-air defense fire of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries downed two Soviet MiGs around Herat and killed their pilots. A newly established post of the occupying forces also was completely destroyed in this region; all the troops deployed in it were killed.

On the basis of another report, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries attacked a television center in Feyzabad in Badakhshan Province, killing 10 joint troops and 60 personnel from the television center. According to this report, in retaliation for this attack the Kabul regime pounded villages of the Badakhshan Province for one week razing 15 villages to the ground and martyring about 200 of their inhabitants. During the bombings, three Kabul regime fighter planes were downed by the air defense fire of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

Rebels Killed; Weapons Seized in Paghman, Herat

LD111724 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Oct 86

[tExt] The vigilant security forces of the country, while carrying out combat operations in the region of Paghman District, crushed a number of the professional terrorists belonging to the Etehad-e Eslami band and seized a large number of their weapons and ammunition together with a quantity of antigovernment documents.

BAKHTAR reports that as a result of these operations 21 surface-to-surface missiles, a number of Chinese machine-guns and 0.303 rifles, and a quantity of mines, stored in the hideouts of the counterrevolutionaries to murder and kill the innocent people of Paghman and destroy and set fire to bridges and mosques, were seized by our security forces.

According to another report, a group of counterrevolutionary elements who were moving from their hideouts toward Soleyman village, Enjil District, Herat Province to commit acts of terrorism and to disrupt the peaceful life of this village, were courageously attacked by the security forces of the country. After suffering

losses of life the counterrevolutionaries were forces to retreat to their hideouts.

As a result of these operations a large number of weapons and ammunition were seized by the country's security forces.

Counterrevolutionaries Attack Religious Shrines
LD121818 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 12 Oct 86

[Text] The exported counterrevolutionaries, who have lost the (?power) of confrontation with the country's Armed Forces, are trying in vain to cover up their shameful defeats by resorting to anti-Islamic and inhumane crimes and to achieve this devilish goal they even destroy and set fire to sacred places, mosques, and shrines.

BAKHTAR has reported that the criminal counterrevolutionaries have destroyed the shrine of Shaykh Abol Hassan Kharaqani in Gardeyz, capital of Paktia Province, by launching rockets yesterday. They have revealed their dirty faces once again in front of the sacred religion of Islam and Muslims.

The toiling and Muslim people of Gardeyz condemned this anti-Islamic action by the rebels and cursed them.

Presidential Elections Begin 'Peacefully' 15 Oct

BK150728 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Voting is going on peacefully throughout the country to elect the president. It will continue till 1700 in the afternoon without break. Our representative who visited various polling centers in the capital said voters were seen standing in queues and their number was gradually increasing. President Ershad this morning cast his vote at the Adamji cantonment college pooling center in Dhaka. [passage omitted on casting of votes by prime minister and others.]

Counting of votes will start in all the polling centers immediately after 1700 this afternoon. Special arrangements have been made for announcement of unofficial results over radio and television network. The announcement of unofficial results will begin at 1900 this evening. There will be hourly special bulletins on the result of the election till midnight tonight and again from 0800 tomorrow till midnight. Normal Bangali and English bulletins will continue as usual. (?Flashes) will also be broadcast.

AFP: Opposition Leaders' Movement 'Restricted'

BK141116 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 14 (AFP) — Police restricted the movement of the two main opposition leaders Tuesday for the second day running as they called for a general strike during Bangladesh's third presidential elections Wednesday. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, head of the eight party Awami League Alliance, and Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) both said they were prevented from attending anti-election rallies Monday when explosions echoed around the capital. They are boycotting the elections along with nearly all the opposition because they do not believe the ballot will be free and fair under martial law.

At least 600 Awami activists had been detained across the country, Sheikh Hasina told *Agence France-Presse*, adding that she was being stopped from going to meetings by the police "in the name of security". Correspondents were not allowed to enter the military cantonment where Begum Zia lives Tuesday. She said over the telephone that she had been prevented going more than a few yards from her home on Monday. Dozens of her activists have also been detained. Neither are officially under house arrest, but they are effectively being prevented from taking part in political gatherings.

At least three people have died and 130 have been injured in the last two days and further clashes are feared during the strike.

Military ruler Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who appears certain to win Wednewday's vote, banned anti-electioneering under a martial law regulation issued on October 5.

None of the 11 candidates running against president Ershad have any realistic chance. Information Minister Anwar Zahid said: "The lack of a challenge to Ershad is not a good thing. "But had Zia or Hasina contested the election they would have been wiped out. That is why they are not standing," he told AFP. The minister, who was critical of President Ershad's regime until joining his Jatiya Party earlier this year said the atmosphere of violence, intimidation, and arrests under martial law was not "ideal" for elections. However, this had to be seen in the light of earlier elections in Bangladesh, he said. "We have our own standards and you cannot judge us by the standards of any other country."

Political parties had never conceded defeat in any ballots in Bangladesh, Mr Zahid said. They always alleged fraud whatever happened. Some 175,000 people were in jail under the Awami League in the early 1970's, he said. "Six hundred or so is not too many. The number of prisoners does not influence the results," he added.

150 Arrested, Bombs Recovered in Campus Search

BK141727 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] The law enforcing agencies rounded up over 150 persons, most of them from Jagannath Hall, in Dhaka last night. The arrests were made during a search of five residential halls of Dhaka University yesterday afternoon following a reign of terror let loose by miscreants on innocent public around the campus.

Commenting on the incidents, a government spokesman regretted that the sanctity of university is continued to be violated by a section of so-called students and paid hoodlums in total disregard to the security of most of the students and even the members of public. He said the university halls had been turned into shelters for miscreants and improvised factories of bombs and explosives.

In order to bring the situation under control and in the interest of public security, he said the law enforcing agencies made a search of Zahrul Haq's Hall, Mohsin Hall, Jagannath Hall, Surjit Sen Hall, and Zahimuddin Hall last night. They recovered huge quantities of ammunitions, arms, bombs, and some hijacked motorcycles.

These hijacked motorcycles were used yesterday by the miscreants while creating a reign of terror around the campus. Several innocent persons including two judges of the Supreme Court were injured in bomb blasts and at least 10 vehicles were damaged.

Defense Minister on Outcome of Weinberger's Visit

BK141609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] An American team is expected in New Delhi next month to conclude the negotiations for the acquisition of supercomputers from the United States. This was disclosed by the minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, when answering questions by newsmen at the airport in New Delhi today where he had gone to see off the U.S. secretary of state for defense, Mr Caspar Weinberger. Mr Weinberger, who could not attend the official level discussions today because of indisposition, told newsmen that it was a wonderful visit in every way. He expressed the hope that his visit would further improve relations between the two countries.

Mr Arun Singh said that the Indian side took the opportunity to explain to the United States India's policy of nonalignment and also India's security perception. He said this led to a useful exchange of views and helped each side to understand the other side's perception. Answering questions, Mr Arun Singh stated that they did not discuss Pakistan with the U.S. side. The minister pointed out that they have progressed in implementing the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in the transfer of science and technology. Some of the minor irritants and procedural delays present in both sides are being removed.

Mr Arun Singh was of the view that this would smooth technology cooperation between the two countries. Replying to a question, he confirmed that areas of cooperation are only in defense technology. The possible areas of cooperation include training courses, training aids, and simulators. The minister retierated that they did not discuss either the sale or purchase of any weapon system. Both sides did not raise this issue at all. He also pointed out that the question of nuclear safeguards was not raised or discussed.

Colombo Envoy Meets Jayewardene on Ethnic Issue

BK110851 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 11 Oct 86

[Text] India has conveyed to Sri Lanka its continued interest in seeking a political solution to the island's ethnic issue. The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, and apprised him of the steps taken by India on the latest peace proposals conveyed by the Sri Lankan Government last month. Mr Dixit told Mr Jayewardene that the new formulations have been evolved following discussions with the TULF and other Tamil groups after the receipt of the new proposals. India is now trying to assess whether this will enable the Tamil groups to participate in further discussions with the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr Jayewardene expressed the hope that another round of discussions will take place with the Tamil group as early as possible. The Sri Lanka president told Mr Dixit that he will discuss the matter with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at the forthcoming SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit.

Our Colombo correspondent Plaban Majumder understands that the next round of talks will be held by the end of this month or in the beginning of November.

10 Pakistani Intruders Killed in Punjab

BK141621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Ten intruders from Pakistan, including a suspected terrorist, were killed in an exchange of fire with the Border Security Force [BSF] personnel in Khem Karan sector of Punjab in the last 24 hours. According to a BSF press release, a Nepali and Indian national were apprehended while trying to cross over to Pakistan. BSF men also apprehended three Bangladeshi nationals.

1 Terrorist Killed, 2 Others Captured in Punjab

BK141619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, one suspected terrorist was killed and two others captured by the police with the help of local people in a village in Sangrur District today. A police spokesman said that four unknown persons approached the village, and suspecting mischief, the villagers gave them a chase and captured one of them. The other three hid themselves in wild grass which was set on fire by the people. The miscreants started firing. The police which reached the spot returned the fire, killing one of them and capturing another. However, one managed to escape. The police spokesman also stated that a wanted terrorist, Balbir Singh Lath.. has been arrested in Muga District. Balbir Singh was carrying a reward of 50,000 rupees for his head.

9 Killed by Extremists in Bihar State 13 Oct

BK141613 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] In Bihar, nine persons have been killed, allegedly by extremists, in two separate incidents. Authorities say seven of them belonging to one family were killed in Bhiwaniseva Village in Rohtas District. In another incident, two persons were shot dead at Bagen Village in Bhojpur District yesterday.

Gandhi Pays Visit to Indonesia 13-14 Oct

For reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's official visit to Indonesia 13-14 October, including his talks with Indonesian President Suharto, see the Indonesia section of the 15 October Asia & Pacific *Daily Report*.

Indian Delegation Arrives for Planning Seminar

BK140414 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] A 6-member delegation led by the chairman of the Indian bureau of costs and prices of industrial products, (Y.K. Anaza,) arrived in Islamabad last night. The delegation will participate in the Pakistan-India seminar on long term planning which begins in Islamabad today.

Organized by the Pakistan-India Joint Commission, the seminar will be inaugurated by Federal Minister for Planning and Development Dr Mahbubul Haq.

Seminar Begins 14 Oct

BK141034 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] A 3-day India-Pakistan seminar on long-term planning began in Islamabad this morning. Inaugurating the seminar, the federal minister for planning, Dr Mahbubul Haq, said the future of both the countries lay in economic cooperation. From his long association with economic planning he has been able to find that there exists planning confusion between ends and means. There were rural and urban imbalances and lack of fixing priorities for the few or many. He called for sharing of planning experiences of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries and cooperation in the planning between India and Pakistan.

Spokesman Counters Gandhi Arms Race Charges

BK151042 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan has no desire whatsoever to enter into an arms race with any country as it does not possess the resources for the purpose. He said: In the last 6 years, Pakistan has signed one agreement for 40 aircraft whereas India has purchased hundreds of aircraft — 300 to 400. He said if there is an arms race, it is one country's arms race. The spokesman said India has over the last 6 years entered into a massive arms deal with the Soviet Union. It has also signed agreements for the supply of sophisticated aircraft with the UK and France and has obtained submarines from the Federal [Republic of] Germany. He said Pakistan has scrupulously avoided raising any (?furor) over this issue, acting on the principle that was at least one time recognized by the Indian Government that every country has the sovereign right to acquire arms for self- defense. He said Pakistan wished that India would recognize this principle and refrain from making unwarranted comments in regard to some very modest acquisition that Pakistan has made for replacing its obsolete military equipment.

Demand for Full Soviet Withdrawal Reaffirmed

BK151552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today reaffirmed Pakistan's stand on the immediate withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan and said that Pakistan will warmly welcome the troops' withdrawal. Commenting on the Kabul regime foreign minister's statement on the withdrawal of six Soviet regiments showing that the situation in Afghanistan has stabilized, the spkesman said that if the Kabul regime's foreign minister is really sure of an improvement in Afghanistan's situation, then Pakistan would expect the Kabul regime to demand the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The spokesman said that Pakistan will be very glad to hear such an announcement. The spokesman said that so far as Pakistan is concerned, it has stated openly that it is ready to sign all other instruments under which a concrete guarantee of nonintervention can be provided under the neutral supervision of the United Nations. Similarly, the United States has expressed its willingness to provide a guarantee, and we hope that the third instrument relating to the return of Afghan refugees with honor and dignity will also prove helpful in solving this aspect of the issue.

Khamene'i Visits College, Remarks on Kirkuk Attack

LD111841 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 11 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 11, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Saturday that the Islamic Republic of Iran is now looked upon in the world as a power capable of firmly standing against the global arrogance.

The big powers are now trying to further strengthen their relations with the Islamic Republic because of Iran's determining role in the world and in the region, said the president during his 4-hour visit to the officers' college here Saturday.

President Khamene'i added that the big powers have now grown more pessimistic than ever before with their relations with the Ba'thist Iraqi regime.

Iran has emerged as a brave and revolutionary country in the international arena because of the Iranian people's spirit of self-sacrifice, its geo-political situation, rich natural resources and its historical culture, Khamene'i said.

Lauding the Iranian Army for its acts of bravery and heroic resistance against the aggressor enemy, Khamene'i said that it was incomparable with the army which surrendered to the allied forces and let them occupy the country during the World War II in 1941.

On the Fath-1 offensive launched by Iranian forces on the Iraqi city of Kirkuk Friday night, the president said that the Muslim forces have destroyed key centers of the oil installations, an air base, and several military headquarters in and around the city during the operations.

Iran's Armed Forces chief of staff, Colonel Esmail Sohrabi, the Ground Forces commander, Colonel Hassani-Saadi [name as received], and other military officials accompanied the president in his visit.

Says Ba'thist Regime Proves 'Hollow'

LD150400 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Tuesday that the successful Iranian Fath-1 offensive on Kirkuk proved to the Iraqi nation just how hollow the ruling Ba'thist regime is. The president said that nearly all international circles agreed that Iraq's Saddam Husayn should be removed. But, he said, their problem is who will come to power after him.

Speaking to a group of people, Khamene'i quoted international politico-economic circles as reporting that the flow of gas and oil from Kirkuk has been halted, and that the city's television station is not operating because its mast was torn down. He said the Baghdad government denied the news of the Iranian offensive after a day-long silence.

Khamene'i also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has triumphed over the big powers in the political arena and said Iran's power is due to the Islamic ideology of the Iranian people.

The president who is also the head of the Supreme Defense Council said that no other revolution in the world has been antagonized as has been the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

The Iranian Muslim people have never feared hardship and difficulties, said Khamene'i, adding that Iranian combatants will shortly attain ultimate victory over Iraqi troops.

SAIRI Chairman Tells Khamene'i of Iraqi Unrest

LD150432 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday.

In the meeting Hoj. Hakim said that the desire of the Iraqi people to see downfall of the Iraqi regime has resulted in increased unrest throughout the country as well as desertion of Iraqi soldiers from garrisons.

Hoj. Hakim said the number of Iraqi refugees seeking asylum in the Islamic Republic had increased.

Majlis Speaker on 'Unique' Fath-1 Attack, 'Final Blow'

LD141736 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran are counting down to inflict the final blow on the Ba'thist enemy, said Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday. He added that the enemy is terrified of the impending offensive of the Iranian Muslim forces likely to be launched at any minute.

Speaking to a group of pilots and personnel of martyr Nozheh Air Base of Hamadan, the speaker said the offensive which took Iranian combatants 160 kms deep inside Iraq, is undoubtedly a "great and unique accomplishment of the war". The Baghdad government was so utterly defeated in the operations that it was at a loss at even confirming that it did in fact occur, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

The Majlis speaker expressed hope that the almighty God would make the Islamic Republic's foes conscious so that they would abandon their stubbornness and unwarranted enmity. The enemies, he added, should know that the final blow will cost them dearly. He furthermore called on Iraq's supporters to cease their backing, assuring them that perhaps Iran might reconsider the need to launch its major long-awaited offensive.

The speaker called on international circles and Iraq's supporters to wash their hands of the tottering Baghdad rulers in order to pave the way for their punishment and so that the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq could fight against the Al-Quds occupying regime shoulder to shoulder afterwards.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the operations which liberated Al-Faw and Majnun islands as "great", saying

that the Iranian Muslim combatants broke fortified Iraqi defense lines in the operations.

The enemies are not eager to speak about these operations nowadays... "But we should not forget them", Hahsemi-Rafsanjani said. "These operations will be taught in military academies around the world", he added.

Musavi Issues Statement; Departs for GDR, Hungary

NC130609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 13 Oct 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi left at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation for the GDR and Hungary this morning. He was seen off by the ministers of foreign affairs, interior, energy, economy and finance, and health, as well as by heads of eastern bloc missions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his 4-day visit to the GDR and Hungary, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi will meet with the two countries' prime ministers and will discuss bilateral and international issues.

Industries Minister Shafe'i, Oil Minister Aqazadeh, and Agriculture Minister Zali, as well as the deputy foreign minister and the prime minister's political deputy will be part of Mr Musavi's team.

Before leaving Tehran, the prime minister spoke to our correspondent and analyzed the objectives of his visits.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you are leaving for the GDR and Hungary. What topics will be discussed during these trips and what issues will be decided on in general?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the Almighty. One of the principles which we have always believed in has been the expansion of our relations with various countries so that we can safeguard the interests of the Islamic Republic, including our economic interests. After the revolution we broadened our relations with many countries. There were priorities, and naturally, relations with the Third World was one of them, so we were able to achieve the expansion of relations with these countries. Also among the countries we increased relations with were those of East Europe, with which we exchanged delegations.

This trip actually seeks to lay down the foundations for more long-range and more organized relations, both economic and political. This is the policy that the government is now following in relations with various countries with which it discusses and exchanges views on international and bilateral issues — a policy that is not transient in nature. The visits are being made within this framework. We will speak to these countries both within the framework of joint relations and in connection with foreign trade and possible exchanges in technology, as well as within the framework of international issues. We will put forth our views on world issues and will try to explain our position (?in this part of the world) and learn of their own views and positions. We are doing all this to benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our objectives are all fully based on principles that have emerged from the revolution (?and from) the people. So far we have conducted a foreign policy and made efforts to expand our relations with the outside world in pursuance of these principles.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr Musavi. [end recording]

Commentary Views 'Important Objectives'

LD131336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 13 Oct 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] This morning Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left for East Germany and Hungary at the head of a high-ranking economic and political delegation. This high-ranking delegation's trip to two East European countries, scheduled to last 4 days, is the first important visit by Iranian officials to these countries after the Islamic Revolution's victory, and therefore it has important objectives. [passage omitted]

Considering that the ministers of agriculture, industry, and oil, as well as the deputy prime ministers in charge of political affairs and foreign affairs, are accompanying the prime minister on this visit, important decisions will be made in connection with trade and political relations between Iran and the two East Eurpean countries.

The delegation's trip to Hungary this week, Wednesday and Thursday, will coincide with the session of the joint commission for cooperation between Hungary and Iran. At the end of the session, a memorandum of understanding will be signed on trade exchanges and educational cooperation. It is noteworthy that Iran's relations with East Germany and Hungary have expanded considerably after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Evidence of this expansion can be seen in the growth in trade: Iran's imports from East Germany was about $15 million in 13356 [1977], corresponding to 1.2 billion rials. These imports increased to more than 387 million in 1364 [1985], corresponding to about 7 billion rials. In exchanges with Hungary during the same period, Iran's imports increased by more than 200 percent. In the present circumstances, and in spite of the conspiracy to reduce oil prices, it is forecast that the level of exchanges with East Germany and Hungary will not be extensively altered, since these countries have been among the important buyers of Iran's nonoil exports for a long time. In the last year, more than 16 percent of Iran's overall nonoil exports have gone to East Germany.

Agriculture Minister Speaks Before Leaving for Hungary

LD120707 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 12 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 12, IRNA — The Iranian agriculture minister, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, heading an economic and technical delegation, left here for Budapest, Hungary, Sunday morning to take part in the 4th session of joint economic commission.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, Zali said that his four-day visit to Hungary will provide an opportunity for further expansion of bilateral cooperation.

He said that Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's forthcoming visit to Hungary would open a new chapter in the history of mutual ties between the two nations.

On bilateral trade, Zali said that Iran exported oil and goods including power meters and clothing to Hungary and in return imported items such as aluminium and seeds.

Furthermore, he added, Iran and Hungary cooperated in the fields of fishing, mineral industries, power plants and transfer of technology.

The Iranian minister noted that at the end of talks in Budapest, a letter of understanding will be signed between the two sides for trade exchange and educational, technical, and research cooperation.

The volume of trade between the two countries stood at $200 million last year and is expected to remain the same this year.

KEYHAN Urges 'Retaliation' Over FRG Incident

PM141553 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Oct 86 p 18

[Editorial: "Is It Not Time To Retaliate in Kind Against Western Governments?"]

[Text] Following the attack by counterrevolutionary forces in Frankfurt against the officials at the Iranian pavilion, the West German police clashed with the officials in charge of the Iranian pavilion at the Frankfurt International Book Fair. Then we found out that the Iranians were allowed to reopen their pavilion at the fair only on 6 October.

This decision came following contacts between the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Bonn with the appropriate officials and can be regarded in two ways.

1. This date — 6 October — was the last day of the book fair at Frankfurt. There was no general public viewing, and the day was specifically for collecting and gathering books. There may have been special groups visiting the fair that day, but it was not open to the general public.

2. The Iranian pavilion was closed for the collection of books for security reasons, according to West German officials, and the closure was supposed to last 24 hours; but that is not what happened.

There was a time when our country was criticized for disunity and discord in its internal and external policies and people used to say: These revolutionaries do not know what they want or what they are doing.

It was said: This official says one thing and then acts in the opposite way. They know nothing about foreign policy and they do not know how to run a country.

We made no claims. We did not want the shah's regime to return, nor did we want the false, Western democracy. Western politicians knew that they could expect nothing more from a revolutionary country.

We spent days and nights which were unbelievable, even for those who lived through it. Sometimes, during the first days of the revolution, two sets of guards in the streets fired on one another because they could not tell the difference betwen friend and foe. But we knew that that situation could not last. As time went by, the situation moved toward stability, and today we no longer see the issues we faced in February 1979.

Especially with regard to foreign policy, we have dug deeper, more stable foundations. We should not expect too much, and if we do make a mistake it is not because we lack the mental capacity but because we are inexperienced.

What is amazing, however, is that those who claim to be in favor of order, the leaders of Western democracy and intelligent Westerners who regard the 40 years since World War II as the backbone of their development, did not even bother to learn the principles of order from Hitler. Anarchy, chaos, and racism against all races except the Germanic race dominate all their actions.

We have heard about West German police cooperation with counterrevolution. We have heard about the direct insults hurled at the leadership of the Islamic Revolution by racist West German police in German jails. So it is hard for us to believe in the goodwill of Western governments, especially those which, like West Germany, have stood against our revolution.

We have kept silent until now, thinking that perhaps they would change their ways. But today we find that, the better we treat them, the less kindness and friendship we see from them.

After all, West German officials cannot avoid revealing that it is really the U.S. police who rule in West Germany. No American citizen is allowed to be arrested by German police — diplomatic immunity taken to the extreme.

It is actually not our problem that in the 20th century a new mixture of Zionism and Nazism has been created which is not even ashamed of arresting employees of the Islamic Republic's embassy. But we do not know whom to complain to. It is up to them to decide who is to be the spokesman — the prime minister, the foreign minister, or someone else. It may be easy for the West German police to say: It is not our fault; it is the law in Germany that people who have been beaten up are arrested, especially if they are connected with Iran.

The Foreign Ministry will probably say they are separate from the police force, and finally the officials in charge of the book fair will say that they closed down the Iranian pavilion for security reasons. And, because of the decency of the Iranian officials, those who created the incident will be able to continue their disgraceful behavior at the Frankfurt book fair.

But the FRG Government must think of the consequences and should not allow the joint Zionist-Nazi faction, which has created

a new form of government, to stand against Islam. We hope to God that our officials will show more sensitivity and will end the matter forever.

I feel that the time has come to retaliate in kind against Western governments. We should make them understand the principle ot "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Liberation of Height 654 Shows War 'Initiative'

LD141758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Height No 654 in the Qasr-e Shirin, liberated by Islam's forces this morning, was the starting point of the Iraqi regime's aggression on the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in this region. A spokesman of the war publicity headquarters, announcing this to IRNA, said: The Iraqi regime after crossing this height made the young IRI the target of a vast aggression and barbarous onslaught from the Qasr-e Shirin region. He said: On the first days of its aggression the Iraqi regime opened fire on the city of Qasr-e Shirin.

The spokesman added: During this morning's operations by Islam's combatants, two enemy supply bridges spanning the Qurahtu Su border river came under the control of the Islamic forces and they were partly destroyed by our combatants. He added: Already the enemy's links with the southern bank of Qurahtu Su River have been severed.

He referred to the position enjoyed by Height No 654 as being important and said: This morning's operations by Islam's forces, three days after the successful destructive "fath-1" operations, demonstrate the Islamic forces' mobility on the battlefronts and show that the initiative on the battlefronts lies in the hands of the Islamic combatants.

Defense Minister Stresses Importance of Role of Navy

LD141829 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — Minister of Defence Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali emphasised the significance of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and the role of the Iranian Navy plays in guarding the strategic water-way, to a group of Navy commanders, here Tuesday.

Stressing the strategic location of the Persian Gulf, the defence minister stated that guarding the Strait of Hormuz means guaranteeing the safety of oil exports as well as imports to the Persian Gulf countries. The Iranian Navy which overlooks the Strait of Hormuz is the most powerful in the region, he added. The minister noted that the erstwhile British colonialism had built a formidable navy to rule the seas world-wide, especially the Persian Gulf waters as it was well aware of the area's rich oil sources.

Jalali said that a high percentage of world trade passes through the seas, therefore, global arrogance gives top priority to its colonialist designs of dominating the seas.

Col. Jalali emphasised the need for strengthening combat power of the naval forces to counter the threats of global arrogance.

Navy Commander on Successes of Naval Forces

LD121707 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 12 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 12 IRNA — Iran's Navy Commander Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Sunday that Iranian naval forces have kept sea lanes open throughout the imposed war, despite Iraq's provocative attempts to shut down the strategic regional waterways.

Iraq has also suffered considerable losses both in equipment and life in its vain attempts to close the sea lanes, Malekzadegan said.

Malekzadegan told a gathering of naval forces commanders that the Iranian Navy is protecting 16 coastal islands of the Islamic Republic, oil wells, as well as the oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. He added that the Navy actively patrols and safeguards 3,000 kms of territorial waters.

The destruction of Iraqi naval forces in northern Persian Gulf waters early in the war, was a fatal blow on the enemy which severely reduced its ability to make mischief, the naval chief said.

Among other activities of the Navy, Malekzadegan, said was the successful mining of Khur 'Abdallah waterway after the Val-Fajr-8 operations on February 9, 1986, (liberation of Al-Faw) which effectively trapped Iraqi forces and war vessels.

Roving gun boats and copters also provide support for Muslim combatants during the operations, Malekzadegan said, noting that a more recent naval victory was the destruction of Iraq's Al-Bakr and Al-Ommaya [placename as received] oil platforms a month ago.

The captain said that the Iranian Navy has achieved self-sufficiency in all fields of marine training, which he stressed saved the country millions of dollars in foreign currency.

Malekzadegan said that all heavy and light roving boats of the Navy are locally repaired in the country's shipyard and kept in tip-top condition.

IRNA Reports Desertions From Iraqi Third Army

LD121019 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 12 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 12, IRNA — Some 7,000 Iraqi personnel of Iraq's Third Army have fled war fronts in the past three months, reliable reports said here Sunday.

Following the orders of commanders of the Third Army putting the personnel on alert, at least 7,000 of the military personnel have fled battle fields and have joined opposition groups in Hawr al Hammar and other hideouts in northern Iraq.

The Iraqi ruler has dismissed commander of the Army, General Ziaeddin Jamal [name as received] and has installed Tale'e Khalil al-Dowri [name as received], known as the blood thirsty

general. According to Iraqi POW's, General al-Dowri has personally executed tens of Iraqi military personnel on various accusations.

Iraqi 'Dissidents' Seek Asylum in Iran

LD121903 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 12 Oct 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct 12, IRNA — Seventy two Iraqi dissidents entered Iran through the western border and sought asylum in the Islamic Republic Saturday.

The refugees comprised 17 soldiers, three university students, a teacher, four school boys, and some families who could no longer tolerate oppressive situation in their country.

The flight of Iraqi experts and intellectuals has recently increased considerably. Over the 15-day period from 23 September to 7 October alone, 150 more Iraqis took refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They included 11 physicians, 7 engineers, 20 university students, 20 soldiers, 10 civil servants, 2 military officers, and 50 ordinary people with their families. They all entered the country through the western borders.

All of the refugees have been settled in camps.

Iraq 'Cheats' Media; Shows Oil Complex Outside Kirkuk

LD150359 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters said here Tuesday that in a bid to cheat the international media the Baghdad government had taken newsmen to an oil complex 20 kilometers south of another compound badly hit by the Iranian forces last Friday.

Immediately after Iran's Muslim forces hit an oil compound north west of the Iraqi city of Kirkuk Friday, the Islamic government advised international mediamen to visit the site and find out for themselves the degree of damage inflicted upon the installations. The complex the Iraq Government showed to newsmen this week is southwest of the city of Kirkuk and 20 kms south of the oil complex known as the 'old oil complex of Kirkuk'.

War information head Dr Kharrazi said here Tuesday that the heads of foreign news services in Iraq are Iraqi nationals who reflect every "official" report handed to them by the Iraqi Government, and who do so often reluctantly and under coersion.

Dr Kharrazi said the coverage of the international media of Iran's assault upon the complex north west of Kirkuk has been scanty and even then vague and defective if not utterly false. Among such reports, according to the War Information head of Iran is one by "REUTER's Iraqi reporter" who said in a dispatch Monday that he had been taken to Kirkuk "along with other unidentified reporters" and that based on his own eyewitness there was no sign whatsoever of any damage upon the oil complex there. Kharrazi reminded that the Iraqi reporter of REUTER agency did not say exactly where he had been taken to.

REUTER's reporter, the Iranian War Information head said, became famous overnight last February by denying in his report the news of the fall of the Iraqi city of Al-Faw into Iranian hands. Kharrazi said REUTER's Iraqi reporter, who says the Kirkuk complex has not been damaged is the very same person who in February denied the fall of the Iraqi city of Al-Faw into Iranian hands.

The Iranian official called on international newsmen to ask the Baghdad government to take them to the "devasted" oil complexes in Jambur, Jabal Bur, and Shura north west of the city of Kirkuk so that they may find out for themselves.

Reportage on Fath-1 Offensive; Combat Operations

'Another' Kirkuk Oil Complex Hit 14 Oct

LD141446 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed another oil installation in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk at 14:40 hours local time (11:10 hours GMT) Tuesday, inflicting substantial damage. All planes returned safely to their bases.

According to an Air Force official the bombed installations, known as "new exploitation complex" are 20 kms south of Fath-1 operational region and 12 kms southwest of Kirkuk.

Muslim combatants of Iran destroyed Iraqi "old exploitation complex", comprising Jambur and Shura oil and gas installations with a capacity of 400,000 barrels per day as well as Kirkuk refinery with a capacity of 30,000 barrels per day, in a joint offensive (Fath-1) with Iraqi Kurds of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on October 10.

3 Helicopters, 1 Aircraft Destroyed

LD141720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] According to reports received from reliable sources inside Iraqi territory, in the course of the raid launched by Islam's forces on a helicopter landing pad in Kirkuk, Iraq, three helicopters were destroyed. During the raid on that city's airport one aircraft was also destroyed on the main runway of the Kirkuk airport. The source adds: The losses and casualties inflicted on the Jambur and Baba Gurgar oil installations were on a vast scale.

According to another report from inside Iraqi territory, eight aircraft of the Zionist regime ruling that country, yesterday afternoon raided the village of Sabrah, near Sulaymaniyah, killing three Muslim inhabitants of that village and wounding several other people.

Iraq Retaliates; Bombs Towns

LD151136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] In retaliation for the joint victorious operations of the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries during Fath-1 operations, the Iraqi Zionist regime launched air and ground attacks on several towns and villages in the regions of Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Irbil. According to the news unit of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), following the attack of the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi Kurdish warriors on the city of Kirkuk, which delivered fatal blows to the city's oil refinery — the biggest oil refinery of the region — the Iraqi Zionist regime, using fighter planes and artillery, pounded inhabited areas of the cities of Dahuk and Zakhu, several villages in Kirkuk Province, and villages in the Irbil and Sulaymaniyah Provinces. By mobilizing a large number of its troops, it is planning to launch another attack on the regions liberated by the Muslim revolutionary Kurds in Dahuk and Zakhu.

Another report indicates that the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga, along an extensive front in Zakhu and some regions of the Dahuk Province, have clashed with infantry forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime; the clash is continuing. The security forces of Saddam's regime too, in order to control the situation in provincial capitals of northern Iraq, have taken some measures to prevent public uprising.

Another report from the regions of Dahuk and Zakhu indicates that the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga are engaged in an intense clash against Saddam's regime, which by mobilizing 10,000 troops and the use of artillery and fighter-bombers, is trying to push away the Iraqi Kurdish warriors from the central regions of the Iraqi northern provinces and the Iraq-Turkey international highway.

Communique No 2,624

LD141706 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — Eleven Iranian civilians were martyred and 65 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed Haft-Tappeh township, south of Dezful, Khuzestan Province, at 13:55 hours (10:25 hours GMT) Tuesday. 20 houses and mosques were also destroyed, said a military communique here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,624 said that an Iraqi warplane was shot down over the Persian Gulf by Iranian jet fighters at 16:25 hours (12:55 hours GMT) Tuesday.

Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraq's new oil installations in Kirkuk at 13:33 hours (10:03 hours GMT) Tuesday setting them afire. The fighters returned safely to their bases.

Iranian infantry troops successfully launched an offensive on Iraqi positions in Qasr-e Shirin operational theater, western fronts, early Tuesday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops. The strategic Height Number 654 was liberated and an enemy commando battalion destroyed during the operations. Among Iraqi soldiers captured by the Iranian forces 20 have been transferred to safe places behind the fronts.

The Muslim forces of Iran also smashed some enemy counter-attacks in the operational theater Tuesday morning inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops and forcing them to flee. Iranian Muslim combatants are now in full control of the region and are checking all enemy operations. Heavy artillery fire is being exchanged in the region.

The Joint Staff communique said that Iraq's economic and industrial centers around Basra have so far suffered irreparable losses since they were shelled by Iranian long range artillery fire at Monday noon. Twenty Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy power station, one 155 mm artillery piece, and one gas station destroyed when units of Iranian Army Ground Forces along with Iraqi Kurdish fighters clashed with Iraqi troops in part of the northwestern fronts on Monday. Iranian forces pounded Iraqi troops in the western fronts Monday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying three observation posts of theirs, according to the communique.

UN Action Sought Over Haft Tappeh Attack

NC150528 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Iraqi aggressor airplanes launched an attack on the residential areas of Haft Tappeh and the grand mosque in this city yesterday which left some of our compatriots injured or martyred. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has sent a message to the UN secretary general asking him to take action that will prevent Iraq from continuing such atrocities and to inform the regime of the serious consequences these activities will bring.

Basra To Be Shelled in Retaliation

LD151252 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 15, IRNA — Iran will continue shelling of Iraq's economic and military centers due to the resumption of enemy air raids on Iranian residential areas. A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Wednesday that because of Tuesday Iraqi air raid on residential areas of southern Iranian township of Haft Tappeh, shelling of economic and military centers around Basra will continue for another 24 hours.

Fourteen Iranian civilians were martyred and 65 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes attacked Haft-Tappeh township, Khuzestan Province, Tuesday. Meanwhile, an Iraqi military spokesman Wednesday confessed to the downing of an Iraqi plane over the Persian Gulf on Tuesday. Iraqi state-owned radio, sowt-al-jamahir [as received] which broadcast statements of the military spokeman in its Wednesday morning news program after a 20-hour silence finally confessed to the downing of the war plane.

An Iraqi warplane attempting to raid Khark Island was shot down over the Persian Gulf by an Iranian F-14 jet fighter Tuesday. No report is yet available on the fate of the plane's pilot who bailed out over the Persian Gulf.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 OCTOBER 1986

Israel

Jerusalem Attack — One man was killed and 68 people were wounded in a grenade attack on Giv'ati Brigade recruits and relatives returning from an IDF swearing-in ceremony at the Wailing Wall, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the man killed was the father of one of the recruits. Three hand grenades were thrown and the perpetrators took advantage of the darkness and commotion to escape, the radio said, though security forces subsequently closed off the old city and detained 29 suspects. The PLO claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued by its Cairo office, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The statement said the operation is in line with a PLO decision to escalate armed struggle against Israel. The Israeli Foreign Ministry subsequently handed the Egyptian ambassador a note protesting the aid and asylum granted by Egypt to the PLO, IDF radio reported. In Damascus, the DFLP issued a communique claiming responsibility for the grenade attack, AFP disclosed.

Government Crisis — Another meeting of Alignment and Likud leaders failed to resolve the dispute over appointments, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the main argument concerns Yitzhaq Moda'i and Yosi Beilin. The Likud is seeking Moda'i's reinstatement in the cabinet while the Alignment wants Beilin's appointment as ambassador in Washington.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio 16 October urged residents of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities to immediately evacuate areas around military and economic installations because Iran intends to launch "decisive attacks" in retaliation for Iraq's "bestial" air raids. The Iranian warning followed IRNA reports that Iraqi planes attacked an Iran Air Boeing 737 airliner on the tarmac of Shiraz Airport 15 October, killing 3 passengers and wounding 30 others. The Iranian foreign minister sent the UN secretary general a note protesting the attack, according to Tehran radio. However, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said the Iraqi planes hit the Iranian Air Force base at Shiraz, destroying 23 C-130 transport aircraft in a stream of bombs and rockets. Another communique carried by the radio announced "devastating" Iraqi air strikes on hydro-electric stations near Dezful. IRNA stated that air raids in Khuzestan caused civilian casualties and damaged "an industrial unit" in the area.

As for action in the Gulf, IRNA claimed that an Iranian F-14 downed an Iraqi Mirage F-1 over Khark Island 15 October. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses said Iraqi naval units prevented Iranian gunboats from attacking Al-'Amiq port. The communique also stated that two Iraqi civilians were killed and seven were injured in further Iranian shelling of Basra.

The UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* reported that Iran has signed an agreement with the SRV for the supply of U.S.-made weapons seized in 1975, according to WAM. The $400 million deal, which will be paid in cash and oil, is for the supply of 12 F-5's, 12 Cobra helicopters, 80 M-48 tanks, and other equipment including Sidewinder missiles.

Iran's Relations With Syria, Turkey

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps minister said in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio that his "extremely successful" visit to Syria was part of the effort to keep Syria informed of Iran's stance on recent developments. He noted that Syria hopes to benefit from Iranian expertise and industrial self-sufficiency in the next war to regain "usurped" Arab territory.

The governor general of West Azarbayjan denied that any "significant" incident occurred recently along the Iran-Turkey border, IRNA reported. He said that minor incidents are "inevitable" and described his recent talks with Turkish officials as "successful."

PLO-Tunisia

In a statement to the UAE's *Al-Ittihad*, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir revealed that following recent high-level talks between Palestinian and Tunisian officials, Tunisia eased the complete ban on the entry of Palestinians. However, according to MENA, Tunisia is deporting "large numbers" of Palestinians to Sudan, Iraq, and the YAR and is closely checking immigration documents in an effort to minimize the Palestinian presence.

DRA

Addressing a ceremony to bid farewell to a Soviet tank regiment in Herat Province, President Najibullah affirmed that through the USSR's internationalist assistance, the Afghan people and military have learned the "science of winning," Kabul radio reported. He reiterated that the DRA is ready for "logical compromise" to establish a national unity government.

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Najibullah, Officials Attend Soviet Troop Send-Off

LD151732 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Today, 23 Mizan 1365, corresponding to 15 October 86, according to the agreement by the Governments of the DRA and the USSR, the withdrawal of six regiments from the limited Soviet military contingent in the DRA started returning to their peace-loving country after accomplishing their noble internationalist duties in defense of our country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The first returning units left for their country from the District of Shindand, Herat province with expressions of thanks from the toiling people of Afghanistan.

A Bakhtar correspondent reports that the meeting that was held to say farewell to the heroic internationalists soldiers of the Soviet Union in Shindand, was attended by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of Council of Ministers; other party and state leaders; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in the DRA; Afghan officers and soldiers stationed in Shindand; representatives of the limited Soviet military contingents in Afghanistan; and the toiling people of that district. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Delivers Address

LD152259 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Speech by Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary on the occasion of the withdrawal of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan on 15 October in Shindand District, Herat Province — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Dear friends, cofighter brothers, dear compatriots: Today is a historical day. An incident of great importance is occurring. The internationalist soldiers are returning to their peace-loving home after accomplishing their internationalist duty. This decision was announced by Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in Vladivostok with the agreement of the DRA Government.

You came to help us at a dark and difficult time for our revolution. At that time, the revolution's life or death, the honor and pride of the people, our national sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of the state of Afghanistan were in question. You extended the hand of assistance to us and helped us through our confusion. Friends can be tested on bad days, and everyone well understands who our friend is. This question has been answered forever for us. All Afghans, including elders, leaders, men, and women are deeply grateful to you. The word thanks is on everybody's tongue and heart. We bow with respect before you, the brave sons of Lenin's country, for all those things that you have done for the people of Afghanistan and for the April Revolution, for your bravery, kindness, and humanitarianism. Today all the grateful people of Afghanistan are seeing you off. Our country's snow peaks and green valleys are seeing you off. Cities, villages, and our homes are saying farewell to you. Your stories and epic pride will be passed from one person to another, from father to son, and from grandfather to grandchild. Those will stay in the memory of our people forever.

Our people will never forget the memory of those Soviet sons who sacrificed their lives for the DRA's independence, freedom, honor, and national prestige. Years and decades will pass, but their memorial that is the symbol of their endless bravery will stay firm and unshakable on Afghan soil. The names of internationalist soldiers will live in the memory of our people. You, Soviet people, Soviet soldiers, have taught us many subjects. We have not only learned from you combat experience and profiency, but you have been the symbol of true revolutionaries, sacrifice, and bravery. The faces of the internationalist soldiers have revealed such ideals that the Afghan soldiers are trying to follow them. The volunteers are joining the Armed Forces like a flood. Our combat capability has been consolidated. Today we are stronger than in any other time. The faith for final victory over the enemy has our people hoping and is leading our Army to final victory.

The enemies of our revolution — the imperialists headed by the United States, the reactionary rulers of Iran and Pakistan, the counterrevolutionaries [word indistinct] of their crushed bands — are convinced that our Soviet combat friends have given us the best experience. They see in us the crushing of a hated enemy. They see in us the science of victory. The recent operations in Khowst, Herat, and other provinces openly showed the further possibilities of Afghanistan's Armed Forces and their readiness to independently solve combat tasks. We are mobilized today with very modern weapons and combat techniques. Let [word indistinct] from overseas know that their plans are made to fail and their millions in expenses to stop the revolution, are useless. The people and revolutionary Army of Afghanistan are now capable of cutting the fierce fingers of U.S. imperialism and its servants, which are extended towards the revolution and people of Afghanistan. Sirs: Nothing will be achieved by these efforts. We will succeed in our right cause. The enemy will be crushed and we will be victorious.

But we do not seek revenge. This war has been imposed on us. Our Soviet brothers have come to us not for war, but for peace, to defend the revolution, for the progress and blossoming of the lives of Afghanistan's people. Our people are aware that the internationalist soldiers are peace soldiers. Our people know that the aggressive imperialist mercenaries and regional reactionaries are the servants of dollars. But our revolution cannot be bought with dollars. Our revolutionary people enthusiastically support their sovereignty. This issue was proved by the first democratic elections. Our revolutionary people warmly back their combatant party. This is proved by the constant growth of party ranks. Now more than at any other time, our people are gathered close around the PDPA. The party and the people have one voice, one step, one heart, and one destiny that is the April Revolution. We are in favor of peace, in favor of very urgently stopping the meaningless bloodshed, and in favor of safeguarding peace in our fatherland. We are on a strong crusade for national reconciliation, and for nationwide peace to firmly expand the social pillars of revolution. We are ready for [word indistinct] constructive with all patriots and Afghanistan's democrats.

We invite all the political forces outside the country's borders who are ready to participate truthfully in the nationwide process of building a new Afghanistan to cooperate seriously and effectively. We are ready for logical compromise and are ready to establish a national unity government. A nationwide reconciliation commission has been formed at the initiative of the patriotic theologians. The draft of the new constitution will be published very soon. We invite all those interested in a bright future for a common, united, and indivisible country to take part in the discussion on the above mentioned plan. Our slogan is simple and understandable. In our home the space is small. Let our home be full of peace and joy.

We say today that the Soviet soldiers have accomplished their internationalist duties for peace, and we, in the hope for peace, are seeing them off more urgently to their home. Our friendship is long lasting.

Dear friends: You are young and strong. Many countless tasks are before you. But the brightest stage of heroism has been opened in your young biographies. You have shown the example of the implementation of the 27th Congress. You have started your life from heroism. Be always the vanguard. Great thanks to the Soviet Union's brave Armed Forces.

On behalf of all the party and all the people of Afghanistan, I present to the captain of your tank regiment the memorial flag of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and Council of Ministers and the sculpture of fraternal combat.

We express our heart-felt thanks to the heroic working class, toiling peasants, and popular intellectuals of the Soviet country for their all-round political, military, and economic cooperation.

Long live the eternal friendship and fraternity of our people! Long live internationalist solidarity! [passage omitted]

Message Sent to USSR Marking Withdrawal

LD160045 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] On the occasion of the partial withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent from Afghanistan to their peace-loving country, the PDPA Central Committee, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the DRA Council of Ministers has sent the following message addressed to the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Union Council of Ministers:

Dear comrades: The PDPA Central Committee, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the DRA Council of Ministers, on behalf of all the people of Afghanistan address you and all the fraternal Soviet people on this historical day, the commencement of the partial return of the limited Soviet military contingents that are stationed in Afghanistan to their country, the USSR.

We are grateful to you and all the great Soviet people for the invaluable assistance, which is being rendered to our country and people. The hearts of all the honest Afghan patriots are full of great feelings of thanks to the Soviet soldier. The soldiers of the Soviet country have come to our assistance in difficult and dark times. They have helped us and are helping us in our struggle against aggression and outside interference to defend freedom, independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the DRA, and to safeguard the honor and dignity of our people. The years that have passed have proved to all the world what is real friendship, fraternity, and goodneighborliness.

The historical protocol of 1921 of [word indistinct] great Lenin and providence of Amanullah Khan in which being is manifested, determined the destiny of our people. These great traditions have remained alive and will be consolidated. Today, there is no sphere in the life of Afghan society in which the mark of selfless and fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union, the assistance of these internationalist people, cannot be seen. At the top of the list is assistance in consolidation of our defense capability, which forms the foundation of all our principles. We will not ever forget the image of the internationalist — brave, heroic, courageous soldier in combat, and modest in times of peace, uncompromising to enemies, kind and responsive to the Afghan toilers — this image will remain in our people's minds forever. The Soviet soldiers not only help us to foil the aggression of international imperialism, regional reaction, and exported mercenary bandits; the role of the internationalist soldier is great in peaceful construction and enlightening our people's minds.

We are expressing profound appreciation to all Soviet brothers-in-spirit, and comrades-in-arms. Our words of deepest gratitude are addressed to their relatives — family, condolences are addressed to those whose relatives and family members have sacrificed their lives on Afghanistan's soil. Their exploits will live on and their names will last forever. Revolutionary Afghanistan will never forget them. We, while seeing off our closest friends, express once again our gratitude for invaluable assistance in the history of mankind, for the selfless assistance, for the readiness to sacrifice on the basis of revolutionary internationalism.

Long live the Afghan-Soviet friendship. Long live combat fraternity. Honor to the internationalist Soviet soldiers. Long live internationalist solidarity.

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee; the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium; the DRA Council of Ministers

'Peaceful' Polls Held 15 Oct; Ershad Said Leading

BK151609 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] The third presidential election was held peacefully throughout the country today. Voting begin at 0800 this morning and continued till 1700 in the afternoon without any break. In all, 12 candidates contested the polls. The total number of voters was over 4 crore 79 lakh 12 thousand. Of them, male voters were 2 crore 52 lakh and the female voters 2 crore 26 lakh. [figures as heard] There were 23,466 polling centers all over the country; 2 lakh 93 thousand and 844 presiding officers, assitant presiding officers, and polling officers were appointed for conducting the elections.

Reports received from various parts of the country say voting was peaceful throughout the country. Our representatives from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, and Sylhet say there were no untoward incidents anywhere. In Dhaka, people turned up at different polling centers despite heavy showers in some areas of the city in the morning.

Meanwhile, according to the latest results received from the Election Commission, Hussain Mohammad Ershad was leading by a big margin over his rivals. The results are: Waliul Islam Chowdhury Sukku Mian has received 5,164 votes; Alhaj Maulana Khairul Islam Jessori 4,287 votes; Alhaj Major — retired — Mohammad Afsaruddin 6,841 votes; Mohammad Ansar Ali 4,907 votes; Mohammadullah Hafezji Huzoor 54,858 votes; Mohammad Khalilur Rahman Majumdar 5,010; Mohammad Abdus Samad 4,311; Mohammad Zahir Khan 15,925; Lieutenant Colonel — retired — Syed Farooq Rahman 57,340; Syed Munirul Huda Chowdhury 3,586; squadron leader — retired — Muazzam Hussain Chowdhury 6,929; and Hussain Mohammad Ershad 1,151,046 votes.

AFP Reports Election Violence, Boycott

BK151245 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 15 (AFP) — Several bombs exploded in Bangladesh Wednesday during a presidential election in which military ruler Lieutenant-General Hussain Mohammad Ershad looked set to sweep to victory amid an opposition boycott. Four policemen were injured when several bombs and crackers exploded in Dhaka, and a bomb was thrown at a train in Laksham, southeast of here, an election law and order spokesman said. Two bombs had exploded in Chittagong, but there were no reports of injuries, he added.

Police clashed with student demonstrators at the university leaving three students injured, police said. Several small bombs also exploded on the campus and a few government vehicles were stoned by anti-election protesters. Nearly 200 people were arrested during polling, some 184 of them in Dhaka, the election law and order spokesman said. Attempts had been made to snatch ballot boxes in four places in southern and northern Bangladesh, but police had recovered the boxes, he added.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party refused to take part saying that free and fair polls were not possible under martial law and called a general strike. Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia both predicted the polls would be shunned by the masses who, they said, had seen enough of electoral fraud under President Ershad. In a March referendum to endorse his rule, the results gave him more than 94 per cent of the vote from a turnout of more than 72 per cent.

Awami League sources said a group of workers of President Ershad's Jatiya Party had thrown crackers at Sheikh Hasina's house, forced the main gate, and fired two shots. No one was reported injured. Police denied there had been any shooting.

The normally choked streets of Dhaka remained deserted all day and voter turnout appeared very low, observers said.

As he cast his ballot in Dhaka's military cantonment, President Ershad said he expected turnout to be between 50 and 60 per cent of the almost 48 million voters, and pledged to lift martial law some time after the elections. The military ruler, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, has said the vote would mark the final phase of a return to democracy. The election commission started counting the votes immediately after the polls closed at 1100 GMT.

In Chittagong, Bangladesh's second largest city, reporters contacted by telephone said the streets had remained deserted all day and very few voters were seen. Reports of electoral fraud were also coming in from the eastern seaport.

The elections seemed to pass off relatively calmly in Dhaka, which has a history of poll violence. Three people have died and more than 130 were injured in the last three days.

At the Water and Power Authority polling centre in central Dhaka, an election official said that 900 of the 1,400 electors had cast their ballots in the first two hours after opening. He could not say where the voters were. The polling station was empty except for a dozen or so Jatiya Party workers.

The opposition boycott left the Jatiya Party as the only major organisation behind any candidate and its workers were the only ones in evidence in polling stations, eyewitnesses said.

At a school in central Dhaka, officials said no votes had been registered in nearly the first two hours of balloting, but two hours before closure they said more than 80 per cent had voted. No voters were to be seen, only Jatiya workers.

At the Telephone Colony [as received] polling station in Dhaka's Motijheel District one worker was seen arguing with an electoral official, then stuffing voting slips into a ballot box. He ran off when he realised he was being observed.

Jatiya Party workers controlled the entry into the Post Office station in the city centre. There were no voters to be seen, but an election official said nearly half the men registered to vote there had done so. When a policeman was asked where the voters were, he shouted at Jatiya Party workers who quickly formed a line, which melted away as reporters left. Election officials and witnesses described similar scenes at several polling stations.

The opposition leaders said more than 1,000 of their party activists had been detained in the run-up to the vote and both had their movements restricted.

The opposition boycott left 11 candidates fighting against Lt-Gen. Ershad, but most of them are virtual unknowns. Only retired Colonel Farooq Rahman and 82-year-old religious leader Maulana Mohammadullah are familiar to voters, but neither was considered a serious threat. Col. Rahman was involved in a 1975 coup in which Bangladesh's first president, Sheikh Hasina's father, Mujibur Rahman, was assassinated.

Delhi on Violence, Low Voter Turnout

BK151249 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal [strike], sporadic bomb explosions, and poor turnout of voters marked the polling in the presidential election today. The hartal called by the main opposition alliances evoked spontaneous response and normal life was paralyzed. In the capital, all private vehicles were off the road. A few state-owned transport buses plied with police escorts. All the shops remained closed. Several bomb explosions were reported from Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Faridpur, and some other parts of the country.

The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that the city was rocked by bomb blasts at various places in the morning and explosions continued in the university areas throughout the day.

Results are expected tonight.

BBC Says Election 'Massive Fraud'

BK151235 London BBC World Service in English
1200 GMT 15 Oct 86

[From "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] We begin with our correspondent's report in Bangladesh, where polling has now ended in the presidential elections. The election was boycotted by all leading opposition parties, leaving the country's military ruler, General Ershad, as the only serious candidate. Our correspondent in the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, (Nick Measant) says ballot rigging was rife.

[Begin (Measant) recording] Dhaka was uncannily quiet with hardly any vehicles on the streets and most people staying in their homes because they were observing the opposition's dawn-to-dusk strike or because they feared violence on the streets. Journalists wanting to observe the voting had difficulty persuading taxi owners to provide cars. As one put it, the strike call is stronger than the promise of money. Once we did manage to [word indistinct] out around the city and into the surrounding countryside, we saw what can only be described as a massive fraud. We saw books of ballot papers prestamped against the plow symbol of General Ershad, one of 12 candidates. We saw lists of voters, which had largely been ticked off with very few people actually voting. In one case, the list showed over 90 percent of the electorate had cast their votes by midafternoon, which was not credible.

In another, voters arriving to cast their votes found their names ticked off as already having voted. We saw an unattended ballot box, and we saw people with the tell-tale finger marks revealing they had already voted voting a second time. They saw you coming and told us to line up again, one woman told us. From provincial towns came similar reports that through apathy or boycott observance real polling was low, at the most 10 percent. The one independent report from Khulna said the Jatiya Party workers who support General Ershad were filling the boxes all right. [end recording]

Dhaka Updates Unofficial Results 16 Oct

BK160234 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 16 Oct 86

[Excerpt] According to the latest unofficial results received from the election commission, Hussain Mohammad Ershad is heading for a massive victory in the country's third presidential election held peacefully all over the country yesterday. Partial results of 3,941 centers out of a total of 12,827 centers in 36 districts show Mr Waliul Islam Chowdhury Sukku Mian 31,733; Alhaj Maulana Khairul Islam Jessori 21,327; Alhaj Major Mohammad Afsaruddin 22,084; Mr Mohammad Ansar Ali 20,719; Mr Mohammadullah Hafezji Huzoor 282,159; Mr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman Majumdar 19,277; Mr Mohammad Abdus Samad 16,849; Mr Mohammad Zahir Khan 74,360; Lieutenant Colonel, retired, Syed Farooq Rahman 221,495; Syed Munirul Huda Chowdhury 16,225; squadron leader, retired, Muazzam Hussain Chowdhury 11,512 and Mr Hussain Mohammad Ershad 3,922,241.

Different political parties and other organizers have congratulated the people and [word indistinct] on the active participation in the presidential poll to complete the process of the country's transition to democracy.

Prime Minister Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and the secretary general of Jatiya Party, Dr M.A. Matin hailed the people and the party workers for peaceful conduct of the election. [passage omitted]

Ershad Reported Leading by 'Majority'

BK160805 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 16 Oct 86

[Text] Unofficial results of the presidential elections have been received from 8,590 centers out of a total of (723,469). It shows Hussain Mohammad Ershad is leading the poll by a thumping majority compared to his opponents. General Ershad polled 871,253 votes. His nearest rival, Maulana Mohammadullah Hafezi Huzoor, secured 525,380 votes followed by Lieutenant Colonel, retired, Syed Farooq Rahman with 437,169 votes. [passage omitted]

Radio Commentary on Reagan-Gorbachev Summit
BK151251 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1540 GMT 13 Oct 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The hope raised by the unexpected extension by a day of the super-power summit meeting at Reykjavik was dashed by the failure of the two leaders to reach an understanding, mainly on arms control. The talks, which were described to be progressing well by the White House spokesman, did not end to the expected line. The Soviet spokesman also said the two sides were close to an agreement on a very [word indistinct] reduction in the strategic long-range nuclear weapons. But the prediction did not come true.

The Reykjavik summit has focused on four main issues: arms control, regional conflict, human rights, and bilateral issues. But the first issue dominated the talks. There was also no word whether the two leaders, American President Reagan and Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Gorbachev, would go ahead with the planned summit meeting in the United States next month.

What, however, is encouraging is the willingness of the two sides to sit across the table to discuss the problem facing them and the world. Mr Reagan welcomed the Gorbachev move for a meeting at a time when observers were predicting worsening of relations and new dangers of a further erosion of East-West detente. Mr Gorbachev had made significant concession for disarmament and these are already causing rumbling among the hawks in the Kremlin. Therefore, the secretary general needs to show the Kremlin that with these concessions he has been able to halt at least some of the new military research by the Americans, particularly the controversial 'star wars' program. Mr Gorbachev's dream of a settlement remained unfulfilled.

President Reagan arrived at the capital of Iceland declaring peace to be his main mission. He was ready to shake hands with the Soviet leader, Gorbachev, on the framework of a superpower deal to reduce intermediate-range nuclear missiles. By and large, relations between the super-powers have not suffered any serious jolt since the first summit a year ago. There have been situations or incidents that could have disruptive effects on superpower relations (?were it not for) restraint exercised by both Washington and Moscow.

Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev [word indistinct] talked about arms control and other related issues. The usual focus was obviously on the danger of nuclear proliferation and the growing rivalries between two superpowers to outdo each other in this regard. Incidentally, one good thing done by nuclear weapons toward world peace is that, paradoxically, it has prevented a third world war by its becoming a mutually assured destructive agent. The doom is delayed and not eliminated. Hence, also the summit-level talks between the two powers to secure against the future nuclear holocaust. [sentence as heard] In fact, both Mr Gorbachev and Mr Reagan carry on their twin shoulders this tremendous responsibility for world peace from which there is no escaping. The world summit, the second in the series, had a world perspective. For the two leaders, who were so engrossed with the question of arms limitation, that other issues did not get any prominence that they deserved.

Linked to question of peace is that of justice and human rights, of which the current world record is rather distressing. Superpowers are in a position to do a good deal more than what has so far been done. The Reykjavik summit may have broken down without producing any result, but the meeting itself was encouraging enough. That there is a willingness between the two superpowers to meet and talk is a good enough sign. For the (time), it will at least prevent any outbreak of any nuclear war between the two.

Jordan's King Husayn Departs Goa 14 Oct
BK141252 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan and Queen Al-Nur Husayn left Goa this afternoon for Amman. The royal couple spent 5 days at a beach resort near Panja. They were seen off at the (Dabarali) Airport by the lieutenent governor of Goa, Dr Gopal Singh, and others.

Curfew Imposed in Orissa District Following Violence
BK160317 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Oct 86

[Text] In Orissa, curfew has been clamped in Bhawanipatna, in Kalahandi District following violence during a religious procession. Thirty-two people have been taken into custody.

Delhi Commentary on Outcome of Reykjavik Summit
BK151217 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The presummit meeting between Mr Reagan and Gorbachev in Iceland has failed to break the ice between the two superpowers. When the Soviet leader's arrival at the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik coincided with the appearance of a series of [word indistinct] one after the other, a hopeful world had interpreted it as an omen for world peace. But after 11 hours of talks between the U.S. President, Mr Reagan, and the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, spread over 2 days, the U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, announced that the talks in Iceland had ended with no new agreement on arms control and no new date had been fixed for a new formal summit.

Even before the talks began, the chances of the success had appeared slim. The American position on the Strategic Defense Intiative named as "star wars' is so rigid that a breakthrough was impossible. In fact, before his departure for Reykjavik, Mr Reagan had said that he was not aiming to dash off [word indistinct] agreements. The American official spokesman and the media had also played down the possibility of any agreement.

Actually, the [word indistinct] has been entirely on the Russian side and it has been going on for a year now. Before the meeting, Mr Gorbachev had said we have arrived for this meeting prompted by a sense of responsibility to our own people and to the peoples of other countries for the future of the world. In their anxiety to make a breakthrough in the present stalemate on the issue of disarmament, the Soviet Union agreed to discuss almost everything — human rights, Afghanistan, nuclear safeguards, international terrorism — in return for a discussion on arms control.

Three specific issues were on the top of the agenda at the Reykjavik meeting. The first and comparatively less intractable was the deployment of American missiles in Europe. Over the past 2 years the Pershing and Cruise missiles had been stationed in different European countries, which if triggered off can destroy major Russian cities and industrial and defense establishments. In return, the Soviets have encircled the North American continent with nuclear submarines in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The U.S. could possibly have made some sort of a compromise on the stationing of missiles in Europe. There has been a mounting protest movement all over Europe against their deployment. It is [word indistinct] and simple reason that in case of a war, the European nations will become the first casualty of the catastrophe.

The second issue at the Icelandic talks related to a treaty banning nuclear tests. The Soviet Union had declared a unilateral ban and has desisted from making any test for the last 1 year. The U.S. has responded negatively. It has not only refused to follow suit; it has during the period conducted 16 more nuclear tests.

But the talks had floundered on the [third] issue of the "star wars". The U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, confirmed this when he said that the minisummit had stalled over the issue of President Reagan's "star wars.' This is no surprise. Unlike Mr Gorgachev, who can take decisions on behalf of his country, Mr Reagan has to take into consideration the interest of the military-industrial complex which in practice runs the U.S. Government. The "star wars" contract worth billions of dollars has been given to 20 powerful American corporations, and 80 percent of the members of the defense committee of the American Congress and the Senate are connected with these corporations. It was impossible for President Reagan to go against the wishes of this all-powerful group. This became evident when these interests mounted a scathing attack on the proposed minisummit, particularly after the Daniloff affair.

It is also known that most of the Reagan's Cabinet favors the continuation of the hard line against the Soviets. It is no surprise, therefore, that President Reagan turned down historic and dramatic arms reduction proposals including, a program to phase out nuclear weapons by the year 2,000. The Russians call their proposals as the historic offer and said that it covered both strategic and medium-range arms. Thus, the second meeting of Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev turned to be as barren as Icelandic landscape. They had met for the first time in November last year in Geneva. It was hoped that the Icelandic meeting might produce some results, because in 12 months time Mr Reagan will be a lameduck president waiting to bow out. He could have left a mark on history, but obviously the compulsions of his situation proved too strong. It is a pity because India, the nonaligned nations, and the peace-loving people in the United States and Europe had hoped that the minisummit would remove from the world the threat of a nuclear war once for all.

Gandhi Visits Australia; Meets Leaders

For reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Australia starting on 14 October, including his talks with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and other Australian officials, see the Australasia section of the 16 October Asia & Pacific *Daily Report*.

Spokesman Denies Indian Allegations on Punjab

BK151709 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo went to ask about U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's health in Islamabad this morning and had a brief meeting with him. Weinberger delivered a letter from President Reagan to the prime minister. Later, a Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen that in his letter, President Reagan has written happily of the prime minister's successful visit to the United States in July of this year. He expressed confidence that the U.S. defense secretary's visit will provide the two countries opportunities for further talks on matters of mutual interest. The spokesman said that Weinberger is now well and will resume his engagements tonight with his meeting with the prime minister. His activities scheduled for this morning will be dealt with tomorrow. His visit to Lahore, however, has been canceled.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan has formulated a program to expand existing facilities in the country to manfuacture defense equipment, and a proposal to build aircraft in Pakistan is being considered. In the past, the proposal had been studied at the technical level. However, the issue will not be the central point in the talks between the U.S. defense secretary and Pakistani officials. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Office spokesman has expressed frustration and regret over the baseless allegation and propaganda campaign unleashed by the Indian Government to involve Pakistan in the situation in Indian Punjab. The spokesman told newsmen that it is regrettable that an attempt has been made to involve Pakistan in the disturbances caused by the internal situation in India's Punjab and Haryana and at the center. The spokesman referred to the statement by an Indian Government spokesman stating that concrete proof and information on Pakistan's involvement have been provided to Pakistan. The spokesman said that almost all this information is linked to alleged confessions by Sikh detainees to police during interrogation. The spokesman denied that a responsible Pakistani officer has said that Sikhs crossing over to Pakistan will be warmly welcomed. The spokesman said it is incorrect to say that Sikh prisoners are incited against India as alledged in the reported confessions. The spokesman said that we have made detailed investigations in border districts and there was not an iota of truth in the Indian allegations. Accordingly, the Indian Government was also given a reply in this regard a few weeks ago. The spokesman categorically stated that not a single Sikh has taken shelter in Pakistan, nor is anyone being given shelter.

In reply to a question, the spokesman hoped that the conducive atmosphere that emerged following the president's visit to India in December last year will be restored. So far as Pakistan is concerned, it is trying to restore that atmosphere. [passage omitted]

The spokesman also told newsmen that there has been significant progress in investigation into the [Pan Am] plane hijacking in Karachi. Unfortunately, one of the accomplices of the hijackers, said to be their leader, is still in the hospital, and the doctors say that his condition is not good enough for him to be interrogated. He said that some of the hijackers have cooperated in the investigations.

Accord Sought With India on 'Illegal' Border Crossings

BK151103 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said Pakistan will be happy if an agreement can be reached with India about the illegal crossing of the borders. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said Pakistan has proposed to India in the past that the representatives of the Ministeries of Interior of the two countries should meet to arrive at some arrangements to prevent illegal crossing of the borders. He pointed out that during the last few years a large number of people have illegally entered Pakistan and most of them are concentrated in Karachi.

NEPAL

AFP: 2 Magazines Shut Down; Sale of Others Banned

BK100953 Hong Kong AFP in English
0939 GMT 10 Oct 86

[Text] Katmandu, Oct 10 (AFP) — The Nepalese Government has closed down two major weekly magazines for publishing "objectionable material" and detained one of the editors, an official source said. The *Saptahik Beemarsha (Weekly Platform)* and the *Nayan Jhilko (Spark of Fire)* were banned for good for publishing material that contravened the Press and Publication Act, the source said.

Keshav Raj Pindali, the editor and publisher [of] the first of the vernacular weeklies, was taken into custody pending further legal action, the source added. Padam Thakurathi, one of its guest editors, was seriously wounded last month when he was shot by an unidentified assailant as he was sleeping.

Mr Thakurathi, who is still in a Bangkok hospital after undergoing three brain operations, had written about drug trafficking in Nepal and alleged government corruption.

Beemarsha recently printed a highly-critical poem titled "Beware" by Rupchand Bista, a pro-leftist member of the National Panchayat (parliament) who has strongly criticised the style and functioning of the Nepal's 25-year-old partyless system of government. The *Nayan Jhilko* had also published statements critical of the Panchayat system.

Nepalese authorities have also banned the local sale and circulation of two popular English-language newspapers printed in New Delhi, *The Statesman* and *The Hindustan Times*.

The newspapers had published a statement critical of the Panchayat system made last week in New Delhi by a senior leader of the banned Nepali Congress Party, Ganesh Man Singh. However, no action was taken against Mr Singh when he returned to Katmandu early this week after going to India for a medical checkup.

SRI LANKA

Colombo Reports Further on Fighting in Mannar

BK141130 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] The Media Center in Colombo said today that the Security Forces patrol, which had been operating around several areas in the Mannar District, is now regrouping while mopping up isolated terrorist groups. This morning two soldiers who lost contact with the main group while operating in the jungle have returned to camp. They said that the rainfall in the area had affected their communications equipment and made them lose contact with the others.

A 24-hour curfew was imposed on the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts yesterday afternoon as the Security Forces pressed in on advantages gained against strong prockets of terrorists in northern Sri Lanka. The area which stretches from Mannar on the west coast almost as far as the east coast was last week reported to have been the campaign group of nearly 1,000 men of different terrorist groups.

Reports yesterday indicated that casualties were high among the terrorists who lost one of the LTTE [Liberation-Tigers of Tamil Eelam] frontline leaders, Victor alias Victor Fusiles alias (Oscr) in an encounter with the Security Forces at Adampan near Mannar on Sunday evening. According to latest reports, at least 15 others were reported killed.

Reinforcements had been sent to Manner last evening and some casualties on the government side had also been reported. The Media Center said that the terrorists were attempting to get the body of Victor Fusiles and a strong hold for holding out in the jungle around (Madhuchai). The reports said that some of the soldiers seriously injured in the battle have been hospitalized.

Official sources said the terrorists were making statements in Madras last evening exaggerating Security Forces' losses and downplaying the casualties they had themselves suffered. Victor, who had been much sought after by the Security Forces, escaped death on several earlier encounters with the troops.

According to officials, he made a number of forays into the heartland of Sri Lanka including the massacres at Anuradhapura and (Wilpattu) last year.

One hundred and twenty-five suspected terrorists were taken into custody for questioning by the Security Forces in (Phuliasu) in the Batticaloa District last Monday. According to the Media Center, 14 persons were detained since there was evidence of their connection with terrorist activities. The other 111 suspects were released the same day.

Khamene'i Speaks at Officer Training College

LD160252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] A graduation ceremony for the sixth term, called Bi'that, and the swearing in ceremony for the 16th term of the officer training college of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were held this afternoon in the presence of mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. The ceremonies were attended by a number of Majlis deputies, self-sacrificers of the Islamic Revolution and of the imposed war, families of martyrs, the imam's second representative to the Supreme Defense Council, the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, commanders of the three services, military attaches of foreign embassies residing in Tehran, and the personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The president was saluted by the units stationed at the officer training college as they marched past.

Later, the commander of the officer training college gave a military report and announced the educational programs of the college — programs on which efforts have been made at improvement.

During the ceremonies, President Khamene'i made a speech in which he said that our brave forces have already demonstrated that they deserve the affection that the people show them. The Army, the corps, the Basij, and thousands of self-sacrificing youths operating at the warfront have been able to make the Iranian nation known to the world as a nation of honor and bravery.

Addressing the Armed Forces, the president said: You should cherish this monumental responsibility. Those of you, the students and graduates, as well as others who have entered this line of work should know that you have entered service at the most crucial moments in the history of the Muslim nation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the enemies of Islam's futile dream of domination over this nation. He said: The aggressive Saddam regime is now beset by comprehensive weakness and helplessness. Our strikes are being delivered at the body of the enemy one after another. Our nation is not tired of the war because it is fighting for justice and for what is right. The war will end one day. I declare here that it will end with the victory for the Iranian nation's just cause. That day is not far away. We should remain alert because we are the standard-bearers of a great and global message. The officer training college has a major role to play in this connection because it is a great educational military center and a place from which the future leaders of Islam will spring.

Rafiqdust Returns From Syria; Comments on Visit

NC151235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Mohsen Rafiqdust returned to Tehran last night after concluding his visit to Syria. The minister spoke with a correspondent from the Central News Unit about the outcome of this visit and on his meetings with Syrian officials.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Rafiqdust, in view of your meeting with the Syrian president and the fact that you (?visited the country), could you please give us the details?

[Rafiqdust] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Syrian Republic has extended decisive and firm support to Iran with regard to the (?question) of the imposed war. What differentiates Syria from other Arab friends is the fact that its (?support) has proved to be effective in dispelling the misconception perpetrated by imperialism which attempts to depict the war as an Arab-Persian conflict and not a war against oppression. Such misconceptions seek to (?denigrate) our just defense. We usually keep our Syrian friends apprised of developments in the course of the war. Hence, I decided to go to Syria and explain our stance personally to the Syrian brothers. I met with Syrian President Al-Asad to whom I conveyed a verbal message from Mr Khamene'i. The Syrian leader has sent reciprocal greetings to Mr Khamane'i.

What I must say for the benefit of our compatriots is that the Syrian Government and leaders have reaffirmed their decisive and firm support until the war is ended, Saddam falls, and Iraq is delivered. This has been their stance so far and they will continue to defend our position as well.

[Correspondent] Did you talk about the self-sufficiency of the Guards Corps with regard to arms?

[Rafiqdust] We did exchange views on this subject. They were very happy about the progress achieved by our country, especially by our Armed Forces. They said that they wished to avail themselves of our expertise. But I did not go for assistance or because we needed something. What I told them about our country was a source of joy and surprise. They hope to benefit from our experience and in the next war for the liberation of Jerusalem and the usurped Arab territories, God willing, they will take advantage of our people's experiences as well as of our indigenous industrial self-sufficiency.

My meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad took place the day after our operations in Kirkuk. I explained in detail the extent of our operations. I showed him the terrain covered by the Islamic forces on a map, and noted that we had traversed 60 kms to carry out these operations in the heart of Iraq. This was a source of joy and amazement to him. In light of the fact that we crossed so much of our own territory, he said that it was not impossible for us to reach Baghdad as well.

I also met with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Mr Ahmad Diyab the head of hte national security organization of Syria [title as heard], and exchanged views with them on topics of mutual interest. On the whole, the trip was extremely successful. We managed to complete the program we had (?acheduled).

[Correspondent] I thank you very much. [end recording]

Cabinet Meets, Discusses 'Recent Victories'

LD151209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, the Cabinet held a session today, chaired by Interior Minister Mohtashemi.

In an interview with our correspondent after the session, while describing the issues discussed, the interior minister said: The regulations on exploitation of the country's mines, which were put forward by the Ministry of Mines and Metals, were approved. According to the regulations, companies assigned to the exploration, preparation, and utilization of minerals have been given special priorities as far as exploitation is concerned, if they possess the necessary legal qualifications.

Also according to the regulations, mineral coops comprising mine workers of the Iranian private sector are authorized to exploit the mines stated in the act.

He added: The regulations on the exploration and sale of minerals, subject to Article 22 of mines, was put forward with 11 articles and ratified. With the approval of the regulations, all exploitation and exploration applicants can exploit mines through signing exploration and sales agreements, and the Ministry of Mines and Metals will act to hand over the mines to contract holders.

Referring to the extensive activities of the Islamic Revolution Committees all over the country, he said: Considering the extensive activities of the Islamic Revolution Committees in Sistan and Baluchestan, Kordestan, western Azarbayjan and the border provinces, it was agreed for 150 million tomans to be placed at the disposal of the Islamic Revolution Committees from the defense budget in order to strengthen the defensive potential and increase the activities of that organ, so that it can maintain its active presence on the fronts and various fields with greater efficiency. [passage omitted]

The interior minister added: During the session, the single article on the construction of the Qom-Kashan-Esfahan motorway was approved for presentation to the Majlis.

Then, while describing the recent victories of the combatants of Islam on the western fronts, especially in Kirkuk, and the recent operation in the Qasr-e Shirin sector, he called the operations outstanding. He described the blows recently dealt to the aggressor enemy by the forces of Islam as very crushing and fateful.

He also referred to the feeble moves by world arrogance and reactionary countries in the region in support of the Iraqi regime. He said: With the formation of 500 battalions of combatants of Islam, we are about to deal fateful blows to the Iraqi regime, some reactionary Arab heads of state and oil producing countries have started whispering about increasing quotas. This is that same plot hatched by world arrogance, and the United States in particular. Saddam will be finished during future offensives on the battlefronts and the quick action by our combatants in the not so distant future. The day when the region will be rid of Saddam is nigh.

Reza'i Urges Forces To Achieve Victory 'Soon'

LD160302 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 15, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i said here Wednesday that the superpowers are trying to force Iran to agree to a coercive peace in an effort to check the spread of the Islamic Revolution in their own interest.

Reza'i made the remarks in a speech to a group of officials from Tehran province.

Iranian forces should accelerate their efforts to achieve the ultimate victory over the Ba'thist troops soon, Reza'i said.

The commander said that the Iranian liberation of Al-Faw and failure of Iraqi troops to recapture the city despite enemy shelling and chemical bombings of the liberated area disrupted their political equations as well as the superpowers' estimate of Iran's combat power.

The early July Iranian recapturing of the western border town of Mehran proved to the world that Iranian forces hold the upper hand in the Iraqi-imposed war despite efforts by enemy troops to hold on to the city and despite propaganda of imperialist mass media, he said.

IRGC Commander Reza'i also said that the Iranian offensive on Iraqi oil platforms of Al-Ummaya and Al-Bakr, north of the Persian Gulf, in September has served to badly weaken the morale of enemy troops.

Commentary Views U.S. Position on 'War of Aggression'

LD111052 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Oct 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The clearer the fate of the war becomes and the nearer the decisive moment gets, the clearer the U.S. position becomes concerning the war of aggression against the Islamic Republic unleashed by Saddam, head of the Ba'thist regime in Iraq. If we observe the charter of statements by U.S. officials, we find that they become hotter as the war intensifies and as dangers that threaten the Saddam regime increase.

The latest in the list of these statements is what Richard Murphy said to an Arabic magazine issued in London. At a time when war enters its last stage and the aggressors await their just retribution at the hands of the heroes of Islam, at this precise moment, we hear someone saying that no one can win this war. Despite the fact that the words uttered by Richard Murphy are nothing but a press statement containing more verbiage and illusion than facts, at the same time it contains important dimensions that shed light on important facts which should be mentioned. The first of these facts is to reassure the Saddam regime that deciding the fate of the war is not in the hands of the Islamic Republic, and that the latter is not capable of ending the war in its favor. The second fact is reassuring this regime that the

United States would be on its side in the event something happened and caused the United States concern.

The fact is that at this hot and ebullient time, particularly these days when certain quarters are voicing concern over the fate awaiting Saddam, head of the anti-Islamic regime in Baghdad, the United States finds that it has the responsibility of reassuring its allies in the region and allaying their fears of the inevitable fate expected by Saddam. The psychological aim is the one that prevails in these statements; but at the same time it reflects direct interference by the United States in the affairs of the region. This is particularly apparent in Murphy's other statements, in which he says: I am pretty sure that the Gulf states would be capable of facing up to dangers, and that they can prevent an extension of the war.

This statement is meant to instigate the Gulf states to take up a unified position on the war and to be fully prepared to confront developments. This U.S. claim comes at a time when the Islamic Republic declares that it does not want an extension of the war and that it wants to conclude a security treaty with all the Gulf states on the condition that these states refrain from offering any support to the Saddam regime. The statement by U.S. official Richard Murphy in these circumstances makes one believe that the United States still puts the issue of the war and the fate expected by Saddam at the top of its political priorities.

But what will the United States do, and how is it going to prevent a victory in this war? This is the question to be answered by Richard Murphy. He did not say how he would stand in the way of the decision of the Islamic Republic to end the war soon by dealing a just retribution to the aggressors. Will the United States, for instance, send military equipment and experts to Iraq, which is what it is currently doing, whether directly or via Jordan or Egypt? Or will it be sending intervention troops to the region as it did in Tabas and in Lebanon? What was the result? What did the United States gain in Tabas and what did it gain in Lebanon? This is a question that the United States should think about answering before undertaking any folly to protect the Saddam regime.

WAM Reports Arms Agreement Signed With Vietnam

JN151502 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1332 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAM) — Iran and Vietnam recently signed an arms agreement in which for $400 million Tehran will receive from Hanoi U.S.-made weapons, ammunition, and spare parts which Vietnam seized following its victory over the United States in 1975.

The newspaper *Al-Ittihad*, which published this report, said the weapons and equipment which Iran will get in accordance with the agreement include 12 (FA-5) fighter planes, 12 Cobra helicopters, 80 M-48 heavy combat tanks, 200 M-113 personnel carriers, air-to-air Sidewinder missiles, artillery, and spare parts. The agreement stipulates that Tehran will pay half of the wapons' value in cash, while the rest will be in exchange for oil Vietnam will get from Iran.

The paper cited informed sources as saying this agreement was concluded during a visit by a Vietnamese delegation under (Hoang Son), the Vietnamese president's adviser for political and international affairs, to Tehran early this month. An Iranian delegation visited Hanoi last July for this purpose.

IRNA Reports Suicide of Soviet Diplomat in Tehran

LD141532 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 14 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 14, IRNA — A Soviet diplomat Vyachel Solosin [name as received] committed suicide here Monday by hanging himself from the railing opposite his flat, police said Tuesday.

Police said that Solosin's colleagues had found him hanging in his flat when they went there to see why he had not showed up for work.

The late Solosin was 45 years old. No information is yet available on why he took his own ife.

Official Denies 'Incidents' on Border With Turkey

LD160647 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 16 Oct 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Oct 16, IRNA — The governor general of West Azarbayjan Province, Ataei, denied any significant incident on Iran-Turkey borders in the past few days. Speaking to IRNA here Wednesday, he said the recent poisonous propaganda of Zionist mass media aimed to mar the recent victorious operations of Iran in Kirkuk region of Iraq.

The governor general stressed that there has been no specific incident on Iran-Turkey borders. However, he added, in a 500 kms long border, minor border incidents are inevitable. These problems, he pointed out, are solved by the good will of border guards, he added. Ataei described his recent trip to border provinces of Turkey and talks with officials there as successful.

Iraqi Commander Called to Baghdad After Recent Defeat

LD160256 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 15, IRNA — Commander of Iraq's Second Corps Lt. General 'Abd al-Sattar Ahmad al-Moyeni was summoned to Baghdad following the recent defeat of his forces which led to the losing to Iranian troops of Height No 654 of Qasr-e Shirin, according to reports reaching here Wednesday.

The Iraqi Second Corps sustained heavy damage and casualties in the operations launched by Muslim combatants of Iran on Tuesday. Part of heights overlooking eastern Baghdad was liberated by the Iranian Muslim forces.

The Iraqi lt. general was appointed commander to the 2nd Iraqi Corps three months ago after Lt. General Zia Towfiq Ibrahim was dismissed.

Former commander of the 2nd Corps Towfiq Ibrahim was dismissed when his forces were defeated in Karbala-1 offensive in which they lost the city of Mehran to Iranian forces six months ago. Nothing is yet known of the fate of General Towfiq Ibrahim.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,625

LD151639 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 15, IRNA — Iran's Navy released Tuesday a cargo ship intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for inspection on October 9, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique Number 2,625 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iraqi forces incurred substantial casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian forces in the western fronts especially in Qasr-e Shirin on Tuesday. Enemy logistical operations were also disrupted.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions and supply routes in parts of the western and southern fronts on Tuesday inflicting casualties and losses on enemy troops and halting their engineering operations, the communique said.

The communique furthermore said that Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian surface-to-air fire in the southern fronts Tuesday.

Heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on Iraqi forces and enemy fire was silenced in Piranshah, Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, and Marivan operational theaters, northwestern fronts, on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iranian forces shelled a convoy of Iraqi patrols in Jofeyr operational theater, southern fronts, Tuesday inflicting casualties and forcing them to flee.

Iraqi Aircraft Attack Airliner at Airport

LD151710 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Oct 15, IRNA — Several civilian passengers of an Iran Air Boeing-737 passenger plane, which was discharging its passengers at Shiraz Airport, were martyred or wounded when the plane was attacked by a number of Iraqi war planes at 13:30 hours GMT Wednesday.

Three passengers were martyred and 30 others wounded in the Iraqi raid on the airliner.

Earlier, on February 20, an Iranian 'Asseman' airliner was shot down by Iraqi planes near Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province. More than forty passengers of the plane including Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahalati were martyred in the February attack on the plane.

Also in 1981, the Iraqi regime shot down a civilian plane en route to Tehran, carrying the late Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia.

Another 60 Iranian civilians were martyred and 300 others wounded in an Iraqi air raid on an Iranian passenger train at Haft Tappeh Station on September 15.

Note Sent to Perez de Cuellar on Attack

LD151740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Following this afternoon's barbarous raid by the Iraqi Zionist regime on an Iran Air civilian airliner that was setting down its passengers, which culminated in the martyrdom and injury of a number of airline passengers, our Foreign Minister Velayati has sent a note to the UN secretary general.

The note refers to the silence of international forums concerning the crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime — the latest of which is an attack on a civilian airliner parked on Shiraz Airport's runway and setting down passengers — as paving the way for more crimes by that regime. The note emphatically calls on the UN secretary general to hasten the dispatch of a mission to investigate and learn about the details of this latest Iraqi crime and to take steps to curb the Iraqi regime from persisting in such crimes.

Civil Aviation Group Condemns Attack

LD151838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] In a letter to the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO], the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization condemns today's raid launched by aircraft of the Iraqi Zionist regime on an Iran Air airliner today.

According to a report from the Civil Aviation Organization the letter refers to the martyrdom and injury of a number of our compatriots in the course of this crime and calls on the ICAO to protest against and investigate the repeated violation of accepted international principles by the Iraqi regime.

Iraqis Bomb Residential Areas

LD151731 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 15 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 15, IRNA — One Iranian civilian was martyred and a number of others wounded when some Iraqi war planes bombarded an inhabited area in the northern part of Dezful, in this southwestern province of the country, at 10:30 GMT Wednesday.

Also, in another development at the same time, intruding enemy planes bombarded an industrial unit in northern Khuzestan Province, causing more civilian casualties. The attack inflicted some damage on the unit.

Iraqis Warned of 'Retaliation'

NC160524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Oct 86

[Text] The War Information Headquarters issued a communique this morning requesting the residents of Baghdad and other cities to immediately evacuate the areas around economic and industrial installations in order to save themselves from the wrath and anger of the Islamic combatants' fire. The text of this communique is as follows:

In his exalted name, in retaliation for recent enemy attacks on residential areas and industrial and labor installations in our country, as well as the attack on a passenger plane in Shiraz, the Islamic combatants will make the sensitive economic and military installations of Iraq the target of decisive attacks. In the last few days, residential areas and industrial installations in various Iranian cities have been targets of bestial air attacks by the Iraqi regime. These attacks have left some of our innocent compatriots martyred or wounded.

As a warning to the enemy to stop his mischief, the Islamic combatants attacked the military-industrial installations of Basra on a limited scale with their long-range artillery. But the Iraqi regime has continued to escalate its air operations and attacked a passenger plane. This proves that it needs a more drastic punishment. Therefore, the Islamic combatants will attack the sensitive economic and military installations of Iraq. This is why the residents of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities are requested to immediately vacate the areas around such economic and military installations in order to ensure their safety from the revolutionary wrath and anger of the Islamic combatants' fire.

Iraq Raids Iraqi Kurdish Villages

LD160953 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 16 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 16, IRNA — Iraqi aircraft bombarded several Iraqi Kurdish villages during the past few days, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi Kurds.

The raided villages are located in Kuh-Sanjiq and Sowardash Districts [names as received] of Iraq's Kurdistan. No report is available on the extent of damage and exact number of casualties.

The raids were carried out in retaliation for attacks of Kurdish combatants on Iraqi forces and their cooperation with the Muslim forces of Iran especially during the Fath-1 operations.